

Sherrod Brown, United States Senator *for* Ohio

# NORTHEAST OHIO QUARTERLY

REGIONAL NEWSLETTER



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[www.brown.senate.gov](http://www.brown.senate.gov)

## Calling for the Creation of a National Network for Manufacturing Innovation

Northeast Ohio's techbelt is a shining example of American ingenuity and a testament to Ohio's ability to make things. In March, Sen. Brown took his first tour through the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute—the nation's first advanced manufacturing hub located in Youngstown.

The Youngstown-based institute is the first pilot in a proposed National Network of Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI), and Sen. Brown led the charge for it to be located in Ohio. His efforts helped procure \$30 million in federal funding for the new hub in Youngstown, which will be matched by \$40 million in private funds.



*Sen. Brown visits the nation's first advanced manufacturing hub located in Youngstown, calls for the creation of a proposed National Network of Manufacturing Innovation.*

In advance of President Obama's 2013 State of the Union Address, Sen. Brown announced that he is drafting legislation to create NNMI, which would establish 15 additional hubs of manufacturing innovation so that the United States can out-innovate the rest of the world while creating thousands of high-paying, high-tech manufacturing jobs. The proposal is designed to bring together industry, universities and community colleges,

federal agencies and all levels of government to accelerate manufacturing innovation. It would establish public-private institutes to leverage investments and bridge the gap between basic research and product development.

In March, Sens. Brown and Blunt successfully included an amendment to support the creation of a National Network of Manufacturing Innovation in the Senate-passed budget resolution.

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# Saving nearly 200 manufacturing jobs in Akron

The future of Meggitt Aircraft Braking Systems’ manufacturing facility in Akron was unclear when the company announced in 2008 that it was moving manufacturing jobs to Mexico. Sen. Brown immediately began working with the company and the United Auto Workers (UAW) to encourage Meggitt to reverse the decision. Now, the company has invested more than \$4.2 million since 2012 in revitalizing the Akron facility’s manufacturing process and nearly 200 local manufacturing jobs have been saved.



Sen. Brown celebrates with workers and company leadership at Meggitt in Akron after helping to retain nearly 200 local manufacturing jobs.

In March, Sen. Brown joined Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic and officials from Meggitt Aircraft Braking Systems to celebrate the job retention and new investments. Sen. Brown also met with some of the Meggitt workers and management to discuss opportunities for future growth.

In 2010, Brown visited Meggitt workers to mark the signing of a new three-year agreement with the UAW that helped save hundreds of jobs at the plant. In 2012, Brown met with new Meggitt President Luke Durudogan to discuss the future of the company’s Akron operations. During the

meeting, Durudogan expressed his intent to pursue new opportunities that could grow the Akron workforce. Meggitt’s new investment is proof that you succeed when you bet on the American worker.

# Presenting a Northeast Ohio Veteran with a Combat Action Ribbon 42 Years Overdue

Ohio’s veterans have made invaluable contributions to our fight for worldwide peace and democracy. In a ceremony in Akron in January, Sen. Brown presented the Combat Action Ribbon to Vietnam veteran Larry Moore of Mansfield – an honor that is 42 years overdue. Sen. Brown presented the ribbon during a ceremony at the Summit County Veterans Service Commission, where Moore currently serves as executive director.

Sen. Brown encourages any veteran who thinks he or she may be entitled

to overdue or replacement medals—or has any other question or concern or needs assistance with the VA—to contact his office. Securing or replacing these medals is a service that only in a small part begins to honor and repay the tremendous work Ohio’s veterans have undertaken on our behalf, and serves as an inspiration to future generations from our state.

Sen. Brown listens to Vietnam veteran Larry Moore of Mansfield after presenting him with the Combat Action Ribbon, an honor that was 42 years overdue.



# Helping Northeast Ohio Homeowners Hurt by the Mortgage Crisis

Foreclosures drag down housing prices and are responsible for the slow housing market recovery. In January, federal regulators and 10 lenders reached a settlement agreement to address the large number of unlawful foreclosures that occurred when banks used illegal practices to initiate foreclosure proceedings or failed to offer mortgage modifications to keep Americans in their homes. The deal requires banks to pay \$8.5 billion to homeowners hurt by the mortgage crisis.

In visits to Cleveland and Youngstown, Sen. Brown revealed that nearly 96,000 Ohioans are eligible for payments and

loan modifications, averaging \$2,125 per homeowner under the deal. Sen. Brown was joined in Cleveland at Community Housing Solutions by Carla Martin, a Cuyahoga County homeowner whose home was in unlawful foreclosure. In Youngstown he was joined by Kathleen and Neil Smith, Columbiana County residents who were denied a loan modification because of mortgage servicer errors, and Patti Dougan, senior attorney with Community Legal Aid, which provides legal services for homeowners facing foreclosure.

Sen. Brown is continuing to work to prevent the housing crisis from un-



Sen. Brown discusses helping homeowners hurt by unlawful foreclosure.

dermining economic recovery efforts and has introduced legislation to expand access to foreclosure prevention services and increase protections for homeowners.

# Announcing a New Mission at Mansfield Lahm Air National Guard Base, 180 New Jobs

Mansfield’s Air National Guard Base is critical to our nation’s security and North-Central Ohio’s economy. The men and women at Mansfield have the experience and the skills to take on a new mission, and Sen. Brown has been working tirelessly to ensure that Mansfield remains a critical hub in our nation’s security.

In March, Sen. Brown announced that the Mansfield Air National Guard will receive a new mission and eight C-130H planes from the Air Force, resulting in the creation of over 180 jobs for the base. Sen. Brown worked with the White House, Ohio Congressional Delegation, Administration officials, and Air Force and

National Guard personnel to secure the new mission for the Mansfield ANGB.

“This new mission is great news for the Mansfield Air Base and the citizens of North-Central Ohio,” said Sen. Brown. “I was proud to fight for these new jobs, which will ensure Mansfield remains an economic driver in the region and a critical hub in our nation’s security.”

In February, Sen. Brown met with then secretary of defense nominee Senator Chuck Hagel. During the meeting, Sen. Brown pressed Sec.

Hagel on his support for a new mission at Mansfield Lahm and reminded him of President Obama’s “Commitment” to the base and finding it a new mission.

Sen. Brown has consistently fought for the Mansfield Base and the jobs it supports. He helped secure funding for the construction of the new \$6.8 million RED HORSE facility at the base, which supports the administration, operations, logistics, and training of a 202-member self-sustaining heavy construction unit.



# Expanding Ohio's Auto Industry

Sen. Brown praised an announcement in February by Ford Motor Company that it will invest nearly \$200 million and add 450 new "re-shored" jobs at its Cleveland Engine Plant, which produces the 2.0-liter EcoBoost engine. The investment will officially move production of the engine for North American vehicles from Valencia, Spain to Cleveland, Ohio.

Sen. Brown has long been a champion of Ohio's auto industry, supporting the auto rescue and helping to stabilize the sector. According to a 2010 study by the Center for Automotive Research, more than 848,000 Ohio jobs depend on the auto industry; this figure includes 120,285 people employed directly by the auto industry, 276,330 people indirectly employed by automakers or parts suppliers, and 395,981 spin-off jobs resulting from spending by direct and intermediate employees. A 2011 study by the Center for Automotive Research found that 164,654 jobs in 2009 would have been lost in Ohio if the auto industry had not been rescued.

## Sen. Brown's Office is Here to Serve You

Sen. Brown is committed to assisting Ohioans who have encountered difficulties with federal matters. Ohioans can call Sen. Brown's state offices and work directly with a constituent services representative to obtain information or resolve an issue they are having with a federal agency. Common areas of inquiry include: Social Security and Medicare benefits, veterans' benefits, military service issues, passport or visa problems, housing matters, IRS issues, and more.

For example, the daughter of a disabled Northeast Ohio veteran applied for VA education benefits but never received her benefits from the VA despite attending community college. Sen. Brown's office learned that all necessary documents were in the St. Louis VA education office and contacted the office. The application was processed in less than two days.



*Sen. Brown listens to an Ohio veteran*

Another Northeast Ohio constituent contacted Sen. Brown's office about an ongoing problem with the Social Security Administration. Despite receiving a favorable overpayment decision in 2001, each year the Social Security Administration intercepted the constituent's tax refund. After he tried for years to resolve the problem, Sen. Brown's office submitted an inquiry to the agency. Agency officials then reported that the case was resolved with a zero balance on the overpayment and a refund issued to the constituent.

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